

The  
Wonder of Wonders;  
or

A true and perfect Narrative of a woman  
near Guildford in Surrey, who was deliv-  
ered lately of seventeen rabbits, and three  
legs of a Tabby Cat, &c.

In a Letter from a Gentleman at Guildford,  
to his friend a Physician in Ipswich,  
Suffolk.

With remarks upon the same by way of answer.

To which is added, an abstract of a letter from  
Mr. Howard, who was the Man-midwife that  
deliver'd her.

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*Mira quidem, non ficta tamen.*

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Ipswich:

Printed by J. Bagnall, in the Butter Market.

1726.

History of the

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It has not been possible to ascertain the exact date of the first publication of the work, but it is believed to have been published in the year 1717. The work is a history of the city of London, and is written in a style which is both interesting and instructive. It contains a great deal of valuable information, and is a work which is well worth reading.

The work is divided into two parts, the first of which contains a history of the city of London, and the second of which contains a history of the county of Middlesex. The first part is written in a style which is both interesting and instructive, and contains a great deal of valuable information. The second part is written in a style which is both interesting and instructive, and contains a great deal of valuable information.

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a  
Letter

From a gentleman at Guildford, to his  
friend a physician in Ipswich, Suffolk.

I am going to write to you an account, which I desire you would not believe to be the less true, tho so very strange and wonderful; therefore I shall make no apology for this letter. There is a poor woman now living in Godalmin, who when she was about five weeks gone, saw two rabbits come into a field, where she was a weeding, (the one black the other gray) which she and her companions ran after but could not catch. In hopping season (which is with us in August) going home from work, she had something came from her, which the surgeon, (who is likewise a man-midwife) by her description judged to have been a mola. In her one and thirtieth week, on the 27 of September, the liver of a rabbit came from her, which her husband brought to Mr Howard the abovementioned surgeon, but he thinking it a trick designed to be put upon him, refused to go; her husband came again the next day, and then brought with him all the breast of a rabbit, with the heart between the two lobes of the lungs, hanging on the outside near the neck. He then went, and there came from her on several days three legs of a cat of a tabby colour, and one of a rabbit; the guts were as a cat's, and in them three pieces of the back bone of an eel; the thorax was empty; the skin with the fleck came likewise from her in pieces, which gave her most pain; when all was discharged, it looked like a cased rabbit; the bones, tho' hard, were broke in coming away; but no one piece without the help of the man-midwife. The cats feet, we may suppose were formed in her imagination from a cat she was so fond of, as to let it lye on the bed by her a nights. She was so well as to go to church on Friday the 28. past, to return thanks for her recovery. The Sunday following she was taken ill again, and the next day there was brought from her another rabbit, but by piecemeal, about the bigness of a store-rabbit, the first being about half grown; since that several others, and but last night she was delivered of the tenth: They have been of different sizes, and different colours, all



1877  
The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the United States, from the year 1789 to the present time. The names are given in alphabetical order, and the year of election is given in parentheses. The names of the Vice Presidents are given in parentheses after the names of the Presidents. The names of the Presidents who have been elected to the office of the President of the United States, from the year 1789 to the present time, are as follows: George Washington (1789), John Adams (1797), Thomas Jefferson (1801), James Madison (1809), James Monroe (1817), John Quincy Adams (1825), Andrew Jackson (1829), Martin Van Buren (1837), William Henry Harrison (1841), John Tyler (1845), Zachary Taylor (1849), Franklin Pierce (1853), James Buchanan (1857), Abraham Lincoln (1861), Andrew Johnson (1865), Ulysses S. Grant (1869), Rutherford B. Hayes (1877), James A. Garfield (1881), Chester A. Arthur (1881), Benjamin Harrison (1889), Grover Cleveland (1893), William McKinley (1897), Theodore Roosevelt (1901), William Howard Taft (1909), Woodrow Wilson (1913), Warren G. Harding (1921), Calvin Coolidge (1925), Herbert Hoover (1929), Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933), Harry S. Truman (1945), Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953), John F. Kennedy (1961), Lyndon B. Johnson (1963), Richard M. Nixon (1969), Gerald R. Ford (1974), Jimmy Carter (1977), Ronald Reagan (1981), George H. W. Bush (1989), Bill Clinton (1993), George W. Bush (2001), Barack Obama (2009), Donald Trump (2017).



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their bones broken, but no more cats feet. I shall only add an acc<sup>t</sup>  
of her delivery of the ninth rabbit, which I had from the mouth  
of another eminent surgeon, who went to see this wonder of  
wonders, viz. On Sunday last he went and could plainly per-  
ceive something move within her, sometimes on one side, and  
sometimes on t<sup>o</sup>ther, sometimes higher; and sometimes lower,  
the woman in no pain: about 12 or 14 hours after she first  
perceived this moving, she fell into violent pains so that  
five or six women were necessary to hold her: her stomach  
was under a very great contraction, her belly, in straining to  
get up what was in her, swelled so, that you would have  
thought her very bowels would have come out; then came  
away the head of a rabbit, with its eyes, ears and teeth,  
and the skin on, then the two forelegs, then the hind legs, af-  
ter them the back part, then the forepart, and after all, the skin  
of a dun colour, with all the bones broken as the former were.  
He is of opinion she endured greater pains than in child  
bearing. There are a great many more particulars, which  
I have not skill enough in midwifery to describe; but there  
is a diary kept of the whole, to be communicated to the  
world in due time. The whole is so publick, and both the  
surgeons of such undoubted reputation and judgement  
in their business that there is not the least room to question  
the truth of it. If this can draw an answer from you, I  
shall be glad to hear your thoughts thereof, who am, Sir,  
Your most humble servant, &c.

Guilford, Nov. 9. 1726.

N<sup>b</sup>. That since the date of this letter, the woman has  
been delivered of four more perfect rabbits.

### Remarks by way of answer.

Sir.

Though the foregoing relation is attended with such  
astonishing circumstances as may well shock the belief of  
the present age, and prove incredible to posterity; yet it  
may be considered, that though this history may stand  
the foremost of its kind, yet seems not altogether impossi-  
ble, since we meet with instances of monstrous births,  
as well as numerous, in almost all ages of physick; as  
particularly attested as this, and perhaps as much un-  
suspected matter of fact. That the imagination has a



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the first thing I saw when I stepped out of the car was a vast, open landscape. The air was crisp and clear, and the sun was shining brightly. I felt a sense of freedom and adventure as I walked towards the horizon. The ground beneath my feet was soft and yielding, and the sky above was a deep, vibrant blue. I took a deep breath and felt my lungs expand. The world was so beautiful, and I was so lucky to be here. I walked for miles, never stopping, until I reached a small, quiet village. The people there were friendly and welcoming, and they showed me the best of their land. I stayed in a simple, rustic inn, and I felt at home. The night was peaceful, and I fell asleep with a smile on my face. The next morning, I woke up early and went for a walk. The landscape was even more beautiful than I had imagined. I saw rolling hills, lush green fields, and a small stream that flowed gently through the valley. I took many pictures, and I felt like I had found a hidden gem. I stayed in the village for a few days, and I loved every minute of it. The people were so kind, and the food was so delicious. I felt like I had found a new home. I said goodbye to my friends and family, and I set off on my journey again. The landscape was still so beautiful, and I felt like I was on a magical journey. I walked for days, and I saw so many amazing things. I felt like I was exploring a new world, and I was so lucky to be here. I walked until I reached a small, quiet village. The people there were friendly and welcoming, and they showed me the best of their land. I stayed in a simple, rustic inn, and I felt at home. The night was peaceful, and I fell asleep with a smile on my face. The next morning, I woke up early and went for a walk. The landscape was even more beautiful than I had imagined. I saw rolling hills, lush green fields, and a small stream that flowed gently through the valley. I took many pictures, and I felt like I had found a hidden gem. I stayed in the village for a few days, and I loved every minute of it. The people were so kind, and the food was so delicious. I felt like I had found a new home. I said goodbye to my friends and family, and I set off on my journey again. The landscape was still so beautiful, and I felt like I was on a magical journey. I walked for days, and I saw so many amazing things. I felt like I was exploring a new world, and I was so lucky to be here.



most prevailing power in conception, and that it sets and imprints upon the infant the characters of the thing conceived, is what is readily granted, considering how common a thing it is for the mother to mark the child with strawberries, mulberries, claret, or any thing else, from the most trifling accident, and, that even in the latter ripening months after the infant is entirely formed. Of which there is an eminent instance in a young gentleman of quality in this country (with whom I have the honor to be acquainted) who has the marks of the fleck of a hare impressed on him by his mother when with child with him, by her being surprized with the sudden sight of that animal. This seems to be confirmed by Moses, even in brute animals; because he tells us, that Jacob increased and speckled his flocks given him by Laban, by putting rods (the bark peeled off) finely sheaked with white and green, in the places where they used to drink, at the time of their engendering, that the ideas formed in the conception should be presently impressed upon the foetus. Among several histories of profane authors, I shall name you only one, vouched by Bellanger, the French Kings surgeon, who was an eye witness of a monster born near Fontainebleau, with the head of a frog (in all other parts perfectly human) which came from the mother holding a live frog in her hand, in a burning fever.

As for those women that have brought forth many children at a birth, historians of good credit are not silent. Picus Mirandola tells you of an Italian lady in his time, that had twenty children at two births; and Martin Cromer mentions a polish countess that had no less than 35 at one birth.

But that which goes beyond all, is the well known story of the countess Margaret, daughter to an earl of Holland, who brought forth at once 365 children; The basons in which they were baptized are to be seen by all strangers, as one of the greatest curiosities in Holland, at the village church of Losdun, not far from the Hague. And now we are in that country, tis past all dispute, as well amongst the learned as unlearned, that the births there, are attended with



in the first place, the most important thing is to have a good understanding of the subject matter. This is especially true when it comes to technical or scientific topics, where a lack of knowledge can lead to serious mistakes. It is also important to have a good understanding of the context in which the information is being presented. This can help you to identify any potential biases or limitations in the data. Once you have a good understanding of the subject matter and the context, you can then proceed to analyze the information. This involves looking at the data and trying to identify any patterns or trends. It is also important to consider any potential sources of error or uncertainty in the data. Finally, you should always be prepared to question the information that you are presented with. This is especially true when it comes to information that is presented in a biased or one-sided manner. By following these steps, you can ensure that you are getting the most out of the information that you are presented with.



a monstrous little animal called the Surger (or Sooterkin)<sup>9</sup> described at large by Levinus Lemnius, an eminent professor of that country: and that this is so common a thing among the seafaring and ordinary people, that scarce one in three, escapes this strange appearance, inasmuch that the good women expect the Surger as much as the child itself, and make provision accordingly.

But to come nearer the purpose, if you look but into Schenkius, an author of great reputation, you will find instances of women delivered not only of Moles with life (as this woman was before the coming away of the rabbits) but even of several living creatures, such as cats, dogs, moles, rabbits, leverets, and mice, of some of these, several together, and others at intervals, like your subject; a great variety of which are transcribed with great exactness from Lycosthenes, Ludovicus Vives, Parvus, and others; not to mention that curious relation of Caspar Bauhine, of a woman in Switzerland who brought forth a boy and two living serpents; than which stupendous fact, nothing can possibly be better attested.

To conclude, as this story from Guildford has as yet something as monstrous in it to the belief of the reader as the births themselves, yet as the fact is now searching into by royal authority and will be speedily published by better hands, we may reasonably suspend our condemning it as a falsehood, till we receive a further information, which is coming out (by way of Diary) of the whole transaction.


Spworth, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1726

Yours, &c

An abstract of the letter from Mr Howard, the  
Mannmidwife and surgeon at Guildford, dated  
Nov. 22<sup>th</sup> 1726.

On Sunday last came hither Mr. Ahlers, surgeon to the Kings household (by his Majesty's order) who took part of the 16<sup>th</sup> rabbit from this poor woman, and carried it to the King at Kensington. He was to have stayed





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till all was over, but being taken ill, was obliged to return  
the same night. The Tuesday before, I had Mr S<sup>r</sup> Andre, his  
Majestys anatomist with me, by the Kings order likewise,  
who took part of one rabbit from her which weighed 22  
ounces; and these gentlemen were both fully satisfied  
with the truth of this wonderful delivery: as was also  
Mr Molineux, secretary to the Prince, who was here  
also; and these gentlemen as I am informed, have  
all made their reports of these facts to the King and  
Prince. This morning I delivered the woman of the  
17<sup>th</sup> rabbit, which, I believe may be the last.

FINIS.



